

plays that Zola wrote, and most of those founded by others on his works, I have not entered into any real discussion of his views respecting the stage, or of his indirect influence on it in France. I have thought it sufficient to indicate that such influence was exercised. A full examination of Zola's relations with the stage would have materially increased the length of a work which is long already, and which I have been anxious to keep within the scope of one volume — a desire which has made my task more difficult than it would have been had I used my materials in all their fulness. But I am distinctly of opinion that biographies in several volumes have nowadays little chance of surviving, even for a moderate number of years.

With respect to Zola's share in the Dreyfus case everybody will recognise, I think, how difficult it is to narrate the doings of any one individual in such an intricate *mtUe* without constant reference to the other combatants and explanation of the many points at issue. Nevertheless, though I fully recognise that the deliverance of Captain Dreyfus was not effected by Zola only, that many other able and whole-hearted men co-operated in that great achievement, I have endeavoured to disentangle Zola's share in the battle from that of the others, saying of them only what has seemed to me strictly necessary to explain his actions. I mention this in order that none may think me unjust towards Zola's fellow-fighters. And though in some introductory pages I have endeavoured to indicate the primary causes of the Affair,

such as I think  
them to have been, in the hope that the reader  
may be better  
able to understand the fury of the fray, I have  
not plunged  
into a discussion of the Affair itself. Besides, M.  
Dreyfus's  
case is now once more before the Cour de  
Cassation, and  
reserve on a variety of matters has therefore  
become advisable.  
Further, for some years already, a far  
abler pen than  
mine, wielded by one of far greater authority,  
M. Joseph  
Eeinach, has been retracing the many episodes  
of the Affair,

